

20. (New) A cover according to claim 1, in which the cover is so configured that it is arranged to be held on a boot solely by the engagement of the sleeve, which said sleeve is made of elastomeric material.
21. (New) A cover according to claim 1, in which the sleeve is constituted by one of moulded latex, silicone rubber, and transparent material.
22. (New) A cover according to claim 1, in which the exterior of the top of the sleeve includes at least one roughened zone on an outer surface of the sleeve, wherein, when a ball is being kicked using the boot with the cover fitted, the rough surface is engageable with the ball to assist in control of the latter.
23. (New) A cover according to claim 4, in which the at least one roughened zone is formed by a plurality of embossed ribs arranged in a herringbone pattern.
24. (New) A cover according to claim 4, in which a first zone is provided substantially in the centre of the top of the sleeve so that, in use it overlies the laces of a boot on which the sleeve is fitted.
25. (New) A cover according to claim 1 wherein the varying axial dimension is continuously variable.
26. (New) A cover according to claim 7 in which the first zone is one of three such zones, the other two further zones respectively flanking the first zone.
27. (New) A cover according to claim 1, in which the sleeve includes fastening means for releaseably holding a tongue of the boot.
28. (New) A cover according to claim 9, in which the fastening means comprises one of a patch of filamentary hooks or eyes for engaging a complimentary material on the tongue to provide a touch and close fastening between the cover and the tongue, and a plurality of filamentary headed protuberances.

29. (New) A cover as claimed in claim 1, in combination with a sports shoe such as a football boot.

Respectfully Submitted

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